

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3063
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV BG
SUBJ: NEW COMMERCE "MINISTER"; HUDA REMAINS IN PLANNING

1. PRESIDENT SAYEM APPOINTED KHONDAKAR SAIFUR RAHMAN A MEMBER OF HIS COUNCIL OF ADVISERS (IE, CABINET) DECEMBER 27. RAHMAN WILL HOLD THE PORTFOLIO OF COMMERCE, RELIEVING DR MIRZA NURUL HUDA WHO CONTINUES IN COUNCIL AS MEMBER FOR PLANNING.

2. RAHMAN, 45, IS A CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT WHO HAS HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN BOTH PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT CONSULTANCIES, AS WELL AS IN THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AREA. HE IS ACTIVE IN SEVERAL ASSOCIATIONS RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IN DACCA. MRS RAHMAN IS THE DAUGHTER OF CHITTAGONG INDUSTRIALIST M.K.KHAN AND THE SISTER OF THE WIFE OF BANGLADESHI AMBASSADOR TO US M.R.SIDDIQI (HIMSELF A FORMER HOLDER OF THE PORTFOLIO RAHMAN NOW FILLS). DETAILED BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION WILL BE SENT BY AIRGRAM.

3. DR HUDA REMAINS IN THE COUNCIL OF ADVISERS BUT IS DIVESTED OF COMMERCE PORTFOLIO THUS PERMITTING HIM TO CONCENTRATE HIS FULL TIME ON PLANNING AND THE IMPLEMENTATION

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OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS INCLUDING PREPARATION FOR THE SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN AND THE RELATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH DONOR COUNTRIES. ANOTHER CHANGE IN THE PLANNING MINISTRY ALREADY ANNOUNCED AND TO TAKE PLACE IN FEBRUARY IS THE APPOINTMENT OF A.M.A.MUHITH AS SECRETARY, EXTERNAL RESOURCES DIVISION. MUHITH IS CURRENTLY EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR FOR BANGLADESH AND INDIA AT ADB IN MANILA AND
EARLIER HAD SEVERAL YEARS IN WASHINGTON AS BOTH PAKISTANI
AND BANGLADESHI DIPLOMAT. (IT IS EXPECTED INCUMBER SECRE-
TARY KAFILUDDIN MAHMUD MAY REPLACE MUHITH IN MANILA.)

4. WE VIEW PRESENT AND CONTEMPLATED CHANGES AS PLUS AS
THEY FREE HUDA OF MORE ROUTINE DUTIES, BRING CAPABLE MAN
INTO COMMERCE MINISTRY AND WILL ADD EXPERIENCE OF MUHITH TO
DEAL WITH FOREIGN DONORS.

MASTERS

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